

mysterious, hard to fit into their categories—
 and such as
 they had, hitherto, tranquilly left out Their
 admission
 involved unsuspected perils to the entire
 presumed plan of
 orderly development On top of the blind
 mysticism of
 war-time exaltation came the shattering impact
 of Revolu-
 tions, accelerated by sheer misery and
 despair When
 Friednch Adler shot Count Stuergh, in 1916,
 the pro-
 paganda of the deed took on a new and
 horrid aspect
 Direct action, Sovietism, Russian and Italian
 dictatorships
 with semi-religious sanctions, woke strange
 echoes m the
 minds even of British working men Plainly, if
 those who
 believed in democracy were to save it, they
 must exert
 themselves they must interfere No longer could
 a rational
 social orde be trusted to emerge out of the
 mere play of
 social and economic forces

As long ago as 1894, Sidne\ Webb in a
 remarkable
 address to the Fabian Society (leprmted in
Problems of
Modern Industry) had said

" Depend upon it, the first step to getting
 \\\hat \ve want is a
 very clear and precise knowledge of \\\hat
 yhat it is that we \\\want
 I do not urge the universal adoption by all
 Socialists of a
 rigid practical programme, complete in
 all its details But our
 one hope of successful propaganda lies in
 the possession of exact
 knowledge and very cleai ideas of what it
 is \\\ve want to teach"

They certainly could claim that they had
 supplied that
 exact knowledge In the Preface to their
 account of
 Consumers' Co-operation, they state that they
 have spent
 thirty years in "imestigatmg and describing
 democratic
 institutions " Again, m regard to the entire

fabric of the
social services, they had outlined a precise
plan of re-
organisation in their Minority Report books

True, the whole of this, as they
explained, could
be accomplished within the frame-work of the
existing
Capitalist system An early question with
which they
were faced in their Minority Report
campaign, was,